MEETING MINUTES

Finance Committee Wednesday, November 10, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

Time -7:00 P.M.

Members in attendance: Chairman Joanne F. Marden, Mary O'Donoghue, S. Jon Stumpf,

Richard T. Howe, Paul Fortier, Mark Merritt and Peggy Kruse.

Also present: Finance Director Anthony Torrisi, School Committee member Annie Gilbert.

MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of October 20, 2010 were moved and seconded for approval with changes. The motion passed 6-0-1.

TOWN YARD UPDATE

Ms. Kruse reported on the progress of the Town Yard Task Force and its charge to submit options for a new Town Yard site. She stated that the Task Force was trying to make the current RFP with Brockway Smith work and added that putting out a new RFP was currently being discussed by the members. When asked if other properties were being considered Ms. Kruse responded that Brockway Smith was the only company being considered under the new RFP.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Marden announced that Finance Committee member Stephen Stapinski officially submitted his resignation to the Town Moderator Sheila Doherty.

WARRANT ARTICLES

ARTICLE 1 - PURCHASE OF 3 BLANCHARD STREET

Discussion on pros and cons for approval:

Pros

- Proposed plan much improved since last presented in 2009 due to safer access/egress, additional parking and playing space.
- \$300,000 a fair market price

Cons

- Continued low level of Free Cash.
- Nice-to-have rather than a necessary project.
- Comparison to other CIP projects relative to importance.

MOTION: Dick Howe moved to recommend disapproval of Article 1. Peggy Kruse seconded the motion. The motion was held for further discussion.

Andover resident Mary Carbone questioned whether or not the owner of 3 Blanchard Street would be able to sell his parcel if not for the Town's offer. Additionally, Ms. Carbone voiced concern over the cost of ball field lighting at a time when residents were being forced to make do with reduced street lighting. Ms. Carbone concluded by stating she would like to see the Andover Soccer Association put their "money on the table" before approval of the project is considered.

Don Borenstein, Andover Soccer Association President, argued the need for additional playing fields due to the Town's current "tight" field space situation. In response to Ms. Carbone's concern over field lighting, Mr. Borenstein informed Committee members that this cost would be paid for privately. When asked if the ASA was also investigating the Reichhold Property for additional field space Mr. Borenstein responded that it was his understanding that there were cost issues with that property. In conclusion, Mr. Borenstein told Committee members that the ASA was currently discussing donating \$50,000 up front to the project thereby reducing the amount the Town would have to request at Town Meeting.

MOTION (continued): The motion failed 3-4-0.

MOTION: Mary O'Donoghue moved to recommend approval of Article 1. Paul Fortier seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-3-0.

ARTICLE 2 – GRANT APPLICATION for FOSTERS POND CONSERVATION LAND

MOTION: Peggy Kruse moved to recommend approval of Article 2. Mary O'Donoghue seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously7-0.

ARTICLE 3 – BANCROFT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

MOTION: Mary O'Donoghue moved to recommend approval of Article 3. Dick Howe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 7-0.

School Committee member Annie Gilbert commended Mary O'Donoghue for her work as Finance Committee liaison noting the complexity of the issues brought before the committee.

ARTICLE 4 – Easement from the Town to the School Department – Bancroft Elementary School

MOTION: Mark Merritt moved to recommend approval of Article 4. Mary O'Donoghue seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 7-0.

NEXT MEETING

Finance Committee
Wednesday, December 1, 2010
3rd Floor Selectmen's Conference Room
7:00 P.M.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Torrisi expressed gratitude to Chairman Marden for volunteering to take his place as a speaker at the Annual Association of Town Finance Committees Meeting held on October 23, 2010.

Chairman Marden distributed Finance Committee Handbook disks.

ADJOURNMENT - 8:20 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted, Carolyn Lynch Recording Secretary